GT 1-5-96

Study: Lesbians' kids not more prone to be gay

Associated Press

A study of 25 children who were raised by lesbian mothers found that only two became gay adults, contradicting the popular belief that such youngsters have a high chance of being homosexual when they grow up.

The study is the first to track children reared in lesbian families from childhood to adulthood, said Susan Golombok, a psychology professor at London's City University.

The 25 English children grew up with their lesbian mothers, most of whom had a female partner. For comparison, the study also tracked 21 children who grew up with unmarried heterosexual mothers, most of whom had a male companion.

None of the children in this comparison group considered himself or herself to be gay when interviewed as adults. The difference between that finding and the result for the lesbian families was not statistically significant.

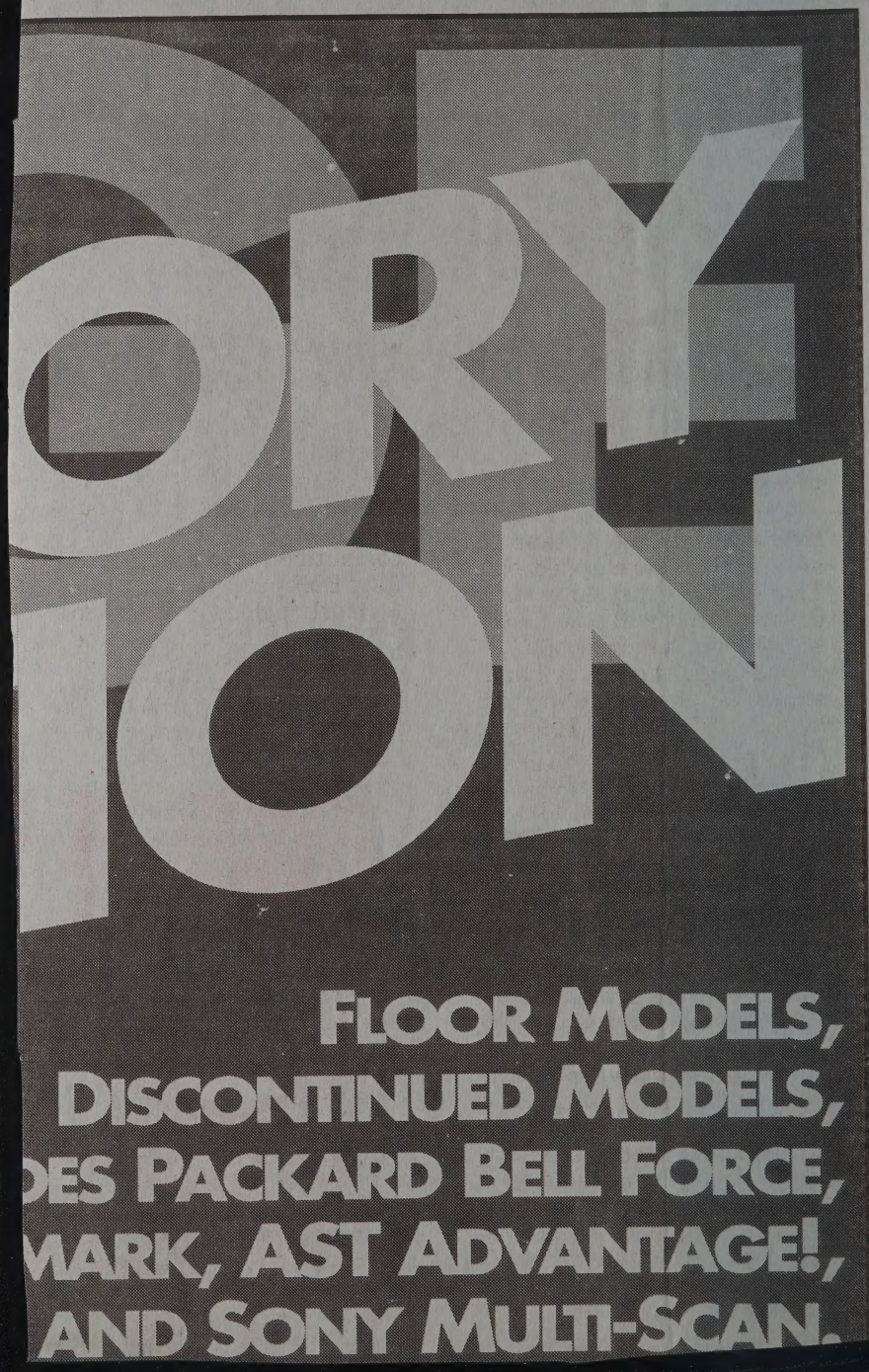
"There's a very strong view among the lay public that these children have a very high chance of being lesbian or gay when they grow up," Golombok said. "The evidence from this study does not support this myth."

But the study had so few participants that Golombok said she could not rule out the possibility that there could be a difference in the rate of homosexuality in people from the two kinds of families.

She reported the work in the January issue of the journal Developmental Psychology with colleague Fiona Tasker.

Michael Bailey, a Northwestern University psychologist who has studied the sons of gay men, said the finding that most children from lesbian families grew up to be heterosexual adults fits with previous studies.

Golombok also found that adults who had grown up in lesbian families were more likely to have had a same-sex relationship at some time than were adults from heterosexual families.


ORY
ION
FLOOR MODELS,
DISCONTINUED MODELS,
DES PACKARD BELL FORCE,
MARK, AST ADVANTAGE!,
AND SONY MULTI-SCAN.